

**UNESCO World Heritage Nomination Proposal  
Grand Pré and area  
Advisory Board**

**World Heritage Committee meeting in Québec City  
July 2<sup>nd</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> 2008  
Meeting report**

**Grand Pré nomination proposal delegates**

Chrystal Fuller, municipal planner: attended from July 2<sup>nd</sup> to July 7<sup>th</sup>  
Christophe Rivet, project manager: attended from July 2<sup>nd</sup> to July 10<sup>th</sup>

**Context**

The World Heritage Committee (WHC) is the UNESCO decision-making body that implements the World Heritage Convention, including the review of World Heritage nomination proposals. The committee is composed of 21 State Parties to the World Heritage Convention elected by the General Assembly for a term of six years (NB: most countries agree to stay on for no more than four to allow other countries to be part of the committee). The World Heritage Committee's 32<sup>nd</sup> session was held in Québec City from July 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup>. An invitation to Canadian World Heritage Site managers and to individuals from sites on Canada's Tentative List was extended so as to learn more about the World Heritage Committee and the process.

The Advisory Board for the Grand Pré nomination proposal delegated Chrystal Fuller and Christophe Rivet to attend the meeting. Chrystal Fuller's expenses were covered by the project according to the travel policy.

**Structure of the meeting**

The meeting addressed four major aspects of the committee's work:

- **State of conservation of sites on the World Heritage List and regional periodic reports:** reviewed the condition and threats to World Heritage Sites individually, reports on situation at WHS regionally;
- **World Heritage List and World Heritage List in Danger nomination proposals:** review of proposals for inscription on the lists;
- **Budgetary and administrative issues:** African World Heritage Fund, Pacific World Heritage Fund, World Heritage Centre activities, Advisory Bodies activities, International Assistance Fund;
- **Principles and directions:** these covered aspects such as a review of the interpretation of the concept of Outstanding Universal Value, recommendations for the safeguarding of specific types of heritage (such as contemporary heritage), and thematic studies (such as cultural landscapes of the Pacific, Rock art of Sahara and North Africa).

**Highlights**

*Review of state of conservation*

Main issues discussed were linked to development proposals within the boundaries or in the vicinity of World Heritage Sites. Notable cases were the building of bridges such as the one in Dresden (Germany) and the building of office towers such as the one proposed in St-Petersburg (Russia). The WHC expressed concern with the proposals in terms of their impact to the site's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). WHC members are understanding of the need for development and discussed the means to guide it. There was debate around the assessment of impact to OUV. The site in Germany was considered for removal from the List but instead relied on the German justice

system to conclude its deliberations with regards to a number of court cases that organisations and citizens launched against the authorities to have the bridge construction stopped. In the case of the office tower proposals, monitoring mechanisms are put in place to assess potential impact to OUV.

### *World Heritage List inscriptions*

This year's list of proposals included archaeological sites, historic districts, cultural landscapes, and protected natural areas. Some sites had similar elements to ones found at Grand Pré, such as the Cultural landscape of Le Morne (Republic of Mauritius) and the Plain of Stari Grad (Croatia).

The cultural landscape of Le Morne is a mountain which was used as a hiding place for escaped slaves. It was also the location of a major battle between the authorities and these slaves, resulting in the slaves' mass suicide. Notable elements of the site: controversial because was perceived as centering on the heritage of one particular group (the Creoles descendants of the slaves) that composes Mauritius society; created strong emotions because of the tragic events that occurred; symbol for a community; the proposal is a natural setting. Notable components of the proposal: the process of developing the proposal invested much energy and resources into carrying out public engagement.

The Plain of Stari Grad (Croatia) is an agricultural landscape that was created by Greek settlers in the 4<sup>th</sup> century BC and has been used since. The proposal encompasses the fields as designed by the Greeks and parts of the villages in the vicinity. Notable elements of the site: rural activities maintained, focus was on field patterns and the evidence that still exists of how they were designed. Notable components of the proposal: challenges in identifying boundaries due to need for research; difference between buffer zone and designated zone needed to be clear.

The WHC throughout deliberations about approving sites to be nominated discussed the issue of buffer zones versus the designated zone, concluding that the buffer zone is not part of the designated zone. It also discussed the issue of management plans, their need to focus on the protection of the outstanding universal value, and to reflect local legal and management realities.

### *Outstanding Universal Value report*

The WHC requested that the advisory bodies assess and produce a report that reviewed OUV interpretation and application of the criteria over the past thirty years criteria. That document is invaluable in providing guidance on interpreting intent.

## **Outcomes**

Documents, reports, information:

- OUV report;
- ICOMOS evaluations (advisory body for cultural properties);
- Nomination proposal excerpts from successful proposals;
- Management and conservation policies;
- Approaches to assessing development proposals, such as buildings and windmills;
- Tentative List from the United States;

Contacts:

- Project managers for successful nominations and that are similar to Grand-Pré's proposal;
- Experts in marshland reclamation;
- Managers of WHS;
- Cultural landscape experts in France, the US, and the UK;
- Managers of World Heritage Sites in Canada and project managers for nomination proposals in Canada.

For consideration for the Grand Pré nomination proposal:

- Prepare a plain language presentation and communication material about UNESCO and the WHC;
- Consider process to review development proposals in the proposed area;
- Demonstrate public engagement and support;
- Viewplane analysis may be required;
- The management plan component needs to be a strong element of the dossier, as this section was often scrutinized in other submissions.
- The OUV for the Grand Pré site is fundamental to the submission, as it is in all submissions.
- The timelines for preparing submissions vary based on the complexity of each project, but our proposed submission target of 2010 is very tight. The board will need to monitor the progress of the nomination proposal very closely to assess if the target is attainable while maintaining the standards that are expected and ensuring broad public support.
- We were able to assess the quality and impact of the communication materials of other sites. Samples will be brought to the next board meeting.

### **Media attention on Grand-Pré**

None. There were no requests for comments or interviews. A press release was issued on July 9<sup>th</sup>, congratulating Joggins for its success and indicating that the Grand-Pré process was moving along.

### **Summary**

The opportunity to attend these meetings provided an invaluable opportunity to learn about the current functioning of the WHC and its expectations for dossier proposals. By attending these meetings the Grand Pré dossier will be much stronger, as we learned about the evolving importance of the concept of "OUV" to the overall submission process and the challenges of proposing a management system that will protect that OUV.

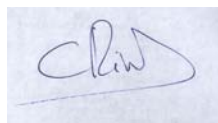
It was also an opportunity to learn about some of the management issues faced by other sites, and about concerns the WHC expressed about the management plans, specifically related to "inappropriate" development that impacts on the OUV. The WHC also appear very interested in the role the local community plays in the ongoing management area and the degree to which the local community participated in the development of the management plan.

Finally, this was an important opportunity to talk with other sites and do some networking that will assist us in the preparation of the dossier.

We both would like to thank the board for allowing us to be their delegates to this event and trust this report will meet its expectations.



Chrystal Fuller, MCIP RPP  
Manager of Planning for Kings County



Christophe Rivet,  
Planner, Parks Canada and Project Manager